Bomb blasts in Mumbai

†2905. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pakistan has been held responsible for bomb blasts that occurred on 11th July, 2006 in Mumbai;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have also sent proofs of this incident to Pakistan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) No.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Indian peace-keeping troops in Lebanon

†2906. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian peace-keeping troops deployed in Southern Lebanon are facing serious challenges;

(b) whether in view of the threates, the Defence Ministry has asked its troops to limit their activities; and

(c) whether Government have any plan to withdraw troops from there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) and (b) The Government attaches paramount importance to the saftey and security of Indian troops deployed in the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL). It thus continues to emphasize this aspect in discussions with the United Nations authorities in New York, including with the UN Security Council and the UN Department of Peace-keeping Operations. However, the operational command of all troops in UNIFIL, including those of India, is with the United Nations.

(c) The Government is carefully assessing all relevant developments, including the provisions of UN Security Council Resolution 1701 of

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

11 August, 2006 and its follow up. The Government is keeping all options open and will take further steps depending on its assessment of the situation.

Multiple visa for longer period

2907. SHRI TARLOCHAN SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for not giving multiple visa and that too for longer period to the people belonging to Afghanistan living in Kabul or U.K. or other countries;

(b) the policy to give return multiple visa to Hindu and Sikh outstees of Afghanistan now living in India;

(c) whether Government are aware that due to exodus many families were separated, some are living in India, U.K. or other countries; and

(d) whether there is any humanitarian scheme of his Ministry for unfortunate people who have suffered on account of religious bias?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Indian Missions abroad grant appropriate visas to Afghan nationals on request after usual checks.

(b) Afghan nationals of Hindu and Sikh community staying in India, who are registered with foreigners Regional Registration Offices or foreigners Registration Offices are granted re-entry facility once a year for a maximum period of three months for (i) disposal of their property in Afghanistan or (ii) visiting a country other than Afghanistan and Pakistan, if the request, if found, justified.

(c) and (d) Afghan nationals displaced due to disturbances in their country have been allowed to stay in India as refugees on the basis of certificates issued by United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) till they are rehabilitated in the third country by UNHCR.

Nuclear expansion programme by Pakistan

2908. DR. M. A. M. RAMASWAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pakistan has embarked upon further nuclear expansion programme;